

**REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claims 1-14 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-5 and 7-8 have been canceled by way of this reply. Thus, claims 6 and 9-14 are now pending in the present application. Claims 6 and 9 are independent. Claims 10-14 depend from claim 9.

**Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 9 and 14 have been amended by way of this reply. Claims 9 and 14 have been rewritten into independent form. Claims 1-5 and 7-8 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 9-14 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 6 and 9 have been rewritten into independent form, and claims 10-14 depend from claim 9. Thus, claims 6 and 9-14 now stand allowable.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**


Claims 1-5 and 7-8 of the present application were rejected under U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application Publication No. H10-334718 ("Hiroaki"). Claims 1-5 and 7-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, this rejection is now moot.

### **Conclusion**

Applicant believes this reply to be responsive to all outstanding issues and place the application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or any other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 15115/183001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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